

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 and 11-26 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 21 have been amended. Claims 7, 12, 20, and 24 have been canceled herein and no claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-19, 21-23, 25, and 26 remain pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application for at least the reasons presented below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 7, 12, 15, 20, 23, 24 and 26 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 21 have been amended to include such limitations. More specifically, claim 1, upon which claims 2-6 depend, has been amended to include all elements of allowable claim 7. Similarly, claim 8, upon which claims 9 and 11 depend, has been amended to include all elements of allowable claim 12. Likewise, claim 13, upon which claims 14-19 depend, has been amended to include all elements of allowable claim 20. Finally, claim 21, upon which claims 22, 23, 25, and 26 depend, has been amended to include all elements of allowable claim 24. Therefore, all claims now contain matter indicated by the Office Action to be allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicant believes that all claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn and all pending claims be allowed.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection, Soltesz

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16-19, 21, 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US2001/0011680 of Soltesz et al. (hereinafter "Soltesz"). As indicated above, all independent claims have been amended to include matter indicated by the Office Action as being allowable. For at least this

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reason, Applicants believe that the rejection has been rendered moot and that claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16-19, 21, 22 and 25 should be allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection, Soltesz in view of Soltesz '401.

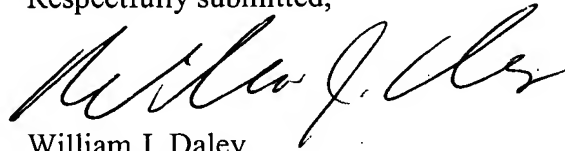
The Office Action has rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soltesz as applied to claim 13 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,027,401 of Soltesz (hereinafter "Soltesz '401"). As indicated above, independent claim 13, upon which claim 14 depends has been amended to include all matter from claim 20 that was indicated by the Office Action as being allowable. For at least this reason, Applicants believe that the rejection has been rendered moot and that claim 14 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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